

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1905.

## Pet Economies of the Wealthy.

## Frequently These Little Hobbies Cost More than They Save.

(Copyright, 1905, by Anna S. Richardson.)

A noted dramatic critic was running through his morning's mail. He had just consigned three advertising circulars to the waste basket, and was tearing into shreds the fourth envelope bearing a one-cent stamp, when something made him pause and look inside. The first thing to catch his eye was the crest of a famous club for dramatists, actors and dilettantes. Carefully he rearranged the torn strips of paper, to find thereon an invitation for dinner, signed by a manager known the country over.

When the evening arrived, four men gathered around the table. When they left the café the coffers had been enriched by a sum considerably over \$100. Walking home with a fellow guest, the critic mentioned the one-cent stamp incident, and his companion replied:

"Don't you know that is one of F's peculiarities? He invariably tucks the flap of the envelope inside, and sends his letter unsealed under a one-cent stamp. At his office his clerks are obliged to watch the business mail, or, for force of habit, he will send out unsealed letters. It is his little hobby of economy."

Two fashionable Pittsburg women, interested in a local charity, were detailed to call upon a capitalist and ask him aid for their work. They were ushered into a reception room in the bank of which he is president. The door leading into his private office was ajar, and these remarks, spoken in the banker's curtest tones, floated out to them:

"Stevens, this is the second time I have found envelopes in the waste basket. I have told you often that it is one of my rules to have envelopes opened with care, and trimmed so that the reverse side can be used for memoranda. The next time you forget this rule you can find a place elsewhere."

The two women looked at each other blankly. If the banker prized second hand envelopes so highly as this, what chance had they to secure a liberal donation? And at exactly the instant on which they exchanged glances, the man flung open the door and entered the room. He read the dismay in their faces, and smoothed his mustache to hide a smile.

"Ladies, I have been apprised of your errand. I presume you overheard my remarks to my stenographer, and you take it that you are up against a hard proposition. It is because I save old envelopes for practical use that I can afford to give you this." And he laid a check for \$1,000 before their amazed eyes.

A Philadelphia merchant had a similar penchant for saving envelopes, and he went one step further, having the envelope backs cut into regular shape and padded at a bookbinder. None of his employees ventured to question the wisdom of this course, but when his son, fresh from college, entered the firm, he walked boldly into his father's private office one morning, armed with bills, estimates and pads of various sizes.

"Governor, I've been looking into this matter of padding envelopes, and I find it costs us exactly two cents more per pad than to have old envelope backs padded to buy new paper, ready blocked. I think we'd better begin to burn second hand envelopes and buy pads by the dozen."

The young man stopped abruptly. Something in his father's face—an expression of mingled disappointment and dismay—bespoke the rude shock given to a habit of years. The younger man cleared his throat.

"Of course, it is just as you say, sir. I presume the price of paper has dropped since you started in business, and it hardly pays."

The old man pulled himself together.

"Of course! Of course! Make the change by all means. Order the new pads, but—but, well, you might have the boys send the second hand envelopes in here—and—I'll look after them."

Six months later the merchant prince died, and stored in a huge closet off his private office he found pile upon pile of envelope backs, carefully trimmed and fastened into packages with rubber bands and strings.

The managing editor of a New York publishing concern and an indefatigable writer, when not engaged in editorial duties, holds second hand "copy" paper in equal veneration. In the rooms all around him struggling striplings in the journalistic field tear off page after page of the neat pads of fresh paper provided by the firm, but their chief indites his pointed, well rounded phrases on the reverse side of paper which has already done service. Several times daily this man makes the rounds of the offices, and whenever he sees a sheet of discarded paper, he carries it back to his private room, blue pencils a huge cross over the writing, and lays it away, clean side up, for future use. In speaking of this trait, he said:

"Years ago, when I started in the newspaper business, paper was an item in the small office where I was employed, and we were forced to use all copy paper twice. Now, my thought will not flow except upon paper which shows writing on the reverse side. And the worst of my—er—economy is that I do not save me a cent. My employees, if any one, reap the benefits."

Many funny tales are told of wealthy men who belong to half a dozen or more financial boards—directors of banks, trust companies and other large corporations. They are paid for their attendance at meetings, and in many of the New-York corporation buildings a free luncheon is served on an elaborate scale to directors who happen to be in the vicinity at noon. During the recent transportation strike, a millionaire whose daily custom it is to lunch at one of the other of these directors' cafés, found himself at noon far uptown. His prospective pen-in-law invited him to lunch at the Waldorf, but the older man shook his head.

"Not at all! Much obliged, but we always have lunch served to us at the—," mentioning his regular noon rendezvous.

"But," persisted the other man, "you can't trust the subway, nor the elevated, and you can see for yourself that the surface cars are jammed and blocked."

"I'll take a cab, sir," said the capitalist, angrily. "The Waldorf-Astoria, indeed! It's a wonder you young folks don't land in the poor-house."

And a cab he took, paying more to reach his free luncheon than the price of a meal for both of them at the Waldorf.

When a capitalist is a director in various institutions, meeting dates are apt to conflict, and then each director gives the preference to what he considers the most important gathering. This led to the establishment of a peculiar

rule in the directorate of a certain trust company. When a member absented himself from a meeting the \$10 due him for his valuable services was divided equally among the other members present. Oddly enough, these men, who counted their holdings not in dollars but in thousands of dollars, seemed to think more of the small increase due them under such circumstances than the usual fee of \$10. The attendance at all meetings picked up remarkably. Then came a day which New-Yorkers will not soon forget, a day of cold rain turning to sleet, of keen north wind rising to a blizzard.

"Ah," said Mr. A., whose offices were nearest the corporation building, "this is the time I get the whole \$100. Not another man will venture out."

So he turned up the collar of his greatcoat

home in winter and pays \$25 a day for her family's summer accommodations in the Adirondacks, takes special pride in the porch of her city home. On this she lavishes not only her money, but her services, and every morning at 8 o'clock she can be seen on her knees, scrubbing the porch floor. No matter how trustworthy her servants, she seems to feel that they are not worthy to care for her porch.

Another Brooklyn woman has a pet anxiety which occasions her family considerable uneasiness, and that is finishing off medicine. If a member of her domestic circle recovers from an illness before exhausting the remedies ordered by the physician, this woman actually hides the bottle and surreptitiously takes small doses until the last drop has disappeared. The fact that she is perfectly well avails nothing as an argument against this economical practice, and last spring her daughters discovered that she was using up the drops of two tonics simultaneously.

A St. Louis woman who makes semi-annual trips to New-York has a passion for remnants, and the dress which gives her greatest satisfaction is that composed of one remnant of silk, another of lace, a third of passementerie, etc., and she will visit shop after shop, paying unlimited cab fare, until she secures remnants which harmonize.

Perhaps this woman may count among her distant relatives a New-York woman who never uses materials the season in which they are bought. She buys her raiment for 1905 in 1904,



VICTIM OF AN ECONOMIC HOBBY.

The man who stoops to pick up a pin in a New-York street generally wastes more time than he saves, and also runs the risk of being knocked over by hurrying pedestrians, who regard him as a first class nuisance.

and fought his way against the rising storm, pausing in doorways to gain breath and fresh energy. The trip of two blocks occupied fifteen minutes of his valuable time.

At the same moment Mr. B., whose offices were further away from the corporation building, was studying the outlook from his window.

"I think it will pay me to hire a cab and make the trip. No one else will be there, and \$100 is a pretty fair price for an hour's work."

The price he was forced to pay for the cab in such dangerous going promised to make quite a hole in the hundred, but still the determination to possess was strong within him. At 12:15 he entered the directors' room to face his nine fellow workers. Every mother's son of them had thought the others would not come and the \$100 would be his.

In a small New-England city which is the centre of a millionaire summer colony a local committee was sent forth to gather shekels for an old fashioned Fourth of July celebration. On their list was the name of a man famous as a patron of racing and other outdoor sports. He heard the committee in silence, then spoke abruptly: "I will give you \$100 on one condition. Not a cent is to be spent on fireworks."

The pleased committee accepted the condition. But their joy was shortlived.

"No," he said, "on second consideration, I will send my donation up from New-York in the form of flags, etc."

The committee counted on nothing from New-Yorker, thinking he had reversed his decision, but a few days before the Fourth there arrived on the scene not only enough bunting and flags to drape the speakers' stand, but new uniforms for the city's somewhat forlorn looking fire and drum corps.

"That's all right," said the New-Yorker later, when a delegation called to thank him for the gift. "It was just a notion of mine about the fireworks. I hate to see good money go up in smoke."

A capitalist whose home is on Long Island was seated in a train behind a quartet of young fellows one morning, when one of the group discovered that he had left his commutation ticket at home and was obliged to pay a cash fare, receiving in exchange not only some change but a refund check, on which he could secure 10 cents by calling at any ticket office of this particular railway company. Said one of his companions in a low voice:

"See old S. watching us. Let's stick the refund check in the window ledge and see what he will do."

In a few moments, with assumed carelessness, the young man thrust the oblong yellow slip into the casement, and when the young quartet left the train the check remained. As they passed the window they saw that the white-haired capitalist had not risen with the rest of the passengers. One of the group fell back to watch the old man lean forward, snatch up the scrap of yellow paper, and then, with a peculiarly satisfied expression, hurry down the aisle of the car and along the platform to the ticket office, where the check was promptly redeemed.

Two lifelong friends make daily trips every summer on one of the large boats connecting New-York City with a line of New-Jersey seaside resorts, and the first thing they do on boarding the boat each morning is to buy a certain penny newspaper, which they proceed to devour, one man taking the inner sheet and the other the outer. Later the sheets are exchanged. The young woman in charge of the newsstand states that never has she known both men to buy a paper. Yet both are genial souls and their summer homes are always filled with guests, heartily welcomed and well entertained.

A Brooklyn woman, who occupies her own

while the summer frock which will do duty in July, 1906, is just now being purchased at some bargain sale, to lie in a cedar chest for a year. One side of her attic is lined with long, narrow cedar chests, which contain everything from Oriental rugs to lace-edged handkerchiefs, each article purchased at a "sale" and ripening for twelve months or more. Not until her daughters arrive at the dignity of a dress allowance do they know what it means to have up-to-date frocks.

In Philadelphia lives a woman whose hobby is butter saving. Woe unto the maid who fails to collect every scrap of the precious golden article, for which is reserved a special jar, immaculately white. The butter balls served at her table are infinitesimal and doled out with grudging hand. Not long ago a young girl who had been visiting this woman's daughter took her departure among the sincere regrets expressed by every member of the family except the mother. Hardly had the door closed upon the guest than the woman said abruptly:

"May, I do not wish Miss M. to visit here again."

"Why?" exclaimed the entire family in chorus. "Because," said the mother impressively, "she takes three helpings of butter at each meal. I have watched her. Three helpings of butter. She never missed it once."

And that woman has real estate holdings valued at half a million!

At a New-Jersey coast town, famous for its inexpensive cottages and tent life, is a landlady whose coming is not pleasantly anticipated by her neighbors. She owns half a dozen cottages, which she rents to summer colonists, living herself on a farm some twenty miles from the resort. Twice a year she comes to the city by the sea—in spring to set her cottages in order and in the fall to close them for the winter. She brings with her a small colored boy whom she has taken from an orphanage, and her supplies for their stay are packed in a generous market basket. It is strictly against the rule to buy further supplies if she can borrow, therefore Mrs. B. on her left is importuned by the small colored person—for half a cup of sugar, or a few crackers, "just enough for my tea," or a few spoonfuls of rice for a pudding; while Mrs. C. on her right is asked for the "loan" of a little tea, or some oil, or lard. "It does not pay," she explains, "to lay in much when you're staying only a few days." So the neighbors realize that while the rich woman's cottages are being set to rights by that most helpful support, or become involved in that most unfortunate of affairs, a neighborhood quarrel.

In the same class belongs a Washington woman who always leaves home when guests appear upon the domestic horizon.

When she has three sons—Hezekiah, Matthias and Andrew—from whom descent is established by more than five hundred persons. If the lawyers think it advisable all the real estate records of the early years of the century in New-York will be examined, and an association to find the lease in the possession of some of the heirs.

According to family tradition, Jonathan Steelman owned a plot of ground in lower New-York, including the site of the City Hall. He leased this land in the last part of the century for a period of ninety-nine years. Early in the present year an advertisement asking for information concerning the heirs of Jonathan Steelman was inserted in the New-York newspapers. Some of the heirs answered it, but received no reply. They then endeavored to find out who had authorized the advertisement, but were unsuccessful. Twenty or more lawyers were retained by as many of the heirs.

Now a general call to all the heirs, who are scattered throughout New-Jersey, Pennsylvania and New-England, has been issued, and an association that will concentrate time and effort and save expense is to be formed.

**HEIRS HOPE TO SECURE LARGE ESTATE**

Cape May, N. J., July 1 (Special).—More than five hundred descendants of a New-York river pilot of Colonial days will attend a reunion at Tuckahoe, this county, on July 4. The object of the reunion and business meeting is to hand together in a period of ninety-nine years. Early in the present year an advertisement asking for information concerning the heirs of Jonathan Steelman was inserted in the New-York newspapers. Some of the heirs answered it, but received no reply. They then endeavored to find out who had authorized the advertisement, but were unsuccessful. Twenty or more lawyers were retained by as many of the heirs.

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## Saks &amp; Company

Broadway, 33d to 34th Street.

For Monday, July the Third, WE ANNOUNCE

## An Extraordinary Clearance Sale of SUITS AND DRESSES FOR WOMEN

## AT RADICAL PRICE REDUCTIONS.

Practically every tailored suit and semi-tailored costume which our stock affords is involved. Nor have we been timid relative to the price reductions. They are indeed extraordinary.

Four hundred suits and dresses of voile, colienne, panama cloth, mohair, clay serge, homespun and fancy checked fabrics, together with tailored suits and semi-tailored dresses of taffeta, pongee and rajah silks. The colors include black, blue, green, tan, brown, gray, white and champagne. All of the season's favored models are involved—long and short coat styles, Eton blouse, "Frock and Frills," fitted and semi-fitted long coat and semi-tailored waist styles. Into four classes we have divided the garments, and revised the prices as follows:

## TAILOR CLOTH SUITS

Formerly \$25.00 to \$35.00. At \$10.00

## TAILOR SILK SUITS AND SILK DRESSES

Formerly \$25.00 to \$35.00. At \$15.00

## TAILOR SILK AND CLOTH SUITS AND SILK DRESSES

Formerly \$37.50 to \$75.00. At \$24.00

## FANCY TAILOR SILK AND EOLIANNE SUITS AND SILK COSTUMES

Formerly \$65.00 to \$145.00. At \$37.50

Leading Specialty Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Waist House in the City.

## Bonwit, Teller &amp; Co

DIRECT ATTENTION TO THEIR

## Midsummer Clearance Sale

## Entire Stock of

## High Class

## Shirt-Waist Suits and Dresses,

## Tailor-Made Suits,

## Coats, Waists and Skirts

At a Reduction of

## Fully One-Half Former Prices.

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CARPET CLEANING. Established 1875.

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HANDSOME reversible fluffy rugs made from your old carpets; any size desired. Call or write for full information. NEW-YORK RUG CO., 401 West 124th-st.

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